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Rep. Melancon was asked to lead the floor debate for House Democrats in support of the resolution, and made the following statement:

"Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention and awareness to National Hurricane Preparedness Week. This year, National Hurricane Preparedness Week is May 20 -26, 2007. The goal of this week is to inform the public about the hurricane hazards and provide knowledge that can be used to take action to save lives at home, work, and while out on the roads.

"Our history teaches us that a lack of hurricane awareness and preparation leaves us more vulnerable to major hurricane disasters. Knowing what actions to take can reduce the harm and damage caused during hurricane season. The Atlantic and Central Pacific hurricane season usually runs from June 1st through November 30th and the East Pacific season usually runs from May 15 through November 30th.

"I would like to thank our friend from Florida, Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart for his leadership on the introduction of this resolution about Hurricane Preparedness Week. This resolution supports the goals and ideals of the National Hurricane Preparedness Week, as well as encourages the work of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration staff, especially the National Weather Service and National Hurricane Center offices. The purpose of this resolution is to urge people to use this week to educate themselves, especially if they live in hurricane prone areas/states, on the various hazards caused during this season, such as storm surges, flooding, wind, tornadoes and how to prepare themselves.

"I ask you, Mr. Speaker and my fellow colleagues to join me in educating our communities on how to better be prepared for such unfortunate natural disasters that we face each and every year."

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